**Flood-proof four-lane NH 57**

†557. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that floods during July-August, 2007 have destroyed some parts of the four-lane road being constructed from Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Jhanjharpur-Fulparas-Narhiya-Bhutaha on National Highway No. 57 in Bihar under East-West corridor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if National Highway No. 57 is not constructed and developed as flood-proof four-lane road it would continue to be destroyed by heavy floods every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's viewpoint for finding its solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Four laning of NH-57 is in progress, The road formation level in 4 laning of NH-57 has been designed by Design Consultant by taking into account high flood level. The design also provides for sufficient number of cross drainage structures for discharge of flood waters.

**Brahmaputra water transport**

558. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that revival of Brahmaputra water transport project is required since it was backbone of the North-East economy;

(b) whether it is a fact that it would facilitate the Free Trade Agreement with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Asian Development Bank (ADB) has indicated for financial assistance to such project; and

(d) if so, by when the revival of project is expected?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya has been declared as National Waterway in 1988 and is being developed for inland shipping and navigation by providing inland water transport infrastructure namely navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids. To facilitate transit and trade of cargo through and with Bangladesh by IWT mode, an Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol exists between India and Bangladesh. There is no such proposal for financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.